

SS#2 SCS SB 55 -- STATE HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

SPONSOR: Nodler (Stevenson)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Education by a vote of 19 to 2 with 2 present.

This substitute renames Missouri Southern State College as Missouri Southern State University-Joplin, the renaming to be accomplished without use of state funds. The substitute also designates Missouri Southern as a statewide institution of international or global education and adds Missouri Southern to those institutions which are charged with a statewide mission and governed by a board of governors.

The Coordinating Board for Higher Education may promote development of cooperative agreements between higher education institutions to offer graduate degree programs on campuses which do not otherwise offer graduate degrees. Diplomas would include the names of both institutions. Missouri Southern will discontinue, as of July 1, 2008, any associate degree programs unless the continuation of the programs is approved by the coordinating board. The coordinating board's authority regarding new program approval is not affected.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the name change is a reflection of the natural growth and development that higher education institutions undergo. The change from college to university is important in recruiting students from and establishing relationships with institutions in other countries, where "college" connotes secondary school. The changes to how cooperative graduate programs are handled will let the diplomas more accurately reflect how the program is provided.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Nodler; Representatives Stevenson and Richard; and Dr. Julio Leon, President of Missouri Southern State College.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Becky DeNeve, Senior Legislative Analyst